

21 MAY 1977

STAT

STAT

# CIA chief mum on issue of Korea pullout

By RICHARD C. DUJARDIN  
Journal-Bulletin Staff Writer

SMITHFIELD — Adm. Stansfield Turner, director of the Central Intelligence Agency, declined last night to discuss whether he thinks President Carter's plans for withdrawing U.S. troops from South Korea will lead to war.

Turner, speaking at a press conference at Bryant College, where he will receive an honorary degree today, said the question of what would happen if the United States did pull out of Korea depended heavily on "what the reactions of the South Koreans would be and of course the other countries in the area."

He said he already has passed on his assessments to what their

reactions would be to his superiors in the Executive Branch, "but I am not at liberty to discuss them here."

His remark came just a day after it was announced that President Carter had ordered the recall of Maj. Gen. John Singlaub from his post of chief of staff of U.S. forces in South Korea. The recall is in apparent response to Singlaub's criticism of Mr. Carter's proposal on withdrawal.

"You don't want me to stay here till tomorrow to get my degree?" Turner joked. "Do you want me recalled?"

Asked about apparent discrepancies in his own recent comments that seemed to indicate that President Carter had not yet made a final decision on withdrawing troops, Turner said, "That question would have to be referred to the White House."

The CIA director indicated also that he was not bothered by former President Nixon's recent comments in the television interviews conducted by David Frost that the CIA had "dropped the ball" on a number of occasions while Nixon was President.

"Other than looking backward to be sure the possibility of errors in intelligence operations do not recur, I'm out here looking to tomorrow. I'm not here digging into the past other than when I absolutely have to," Turner said.

He praised Mr. Carter's proposal for legislation to require court authorization for CIA wiretapping, saying that while the bill would limit CIA operations to some extent, "We will still be able to do wiretaps under very controlled conditions."

He suggested that the measure would "prevent abuses of

power in our collecting of intelligence material" and in the end probably would restore confidence in the agency.

The Central Intelligence chief also dismissed speculation that he plans to return in a year or two to a post in the military, such as chief of naval operations or chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He said he "absolutely would not seek out any military position such as that."

"I feel I have my hands full and that this job is as important as one I can fill in the United States at this time," he said.

Turner also declared he has "no designs" for seeking legislation to punish journalists who publish secret classified material, but that he is concerned about the flow of classified information that reaches the public from CIA members through unauthorized channels.

"What we want to do is encourage people not to do this," he said. "We're not interested in punishing them."

He said the "encouragement" could come in a variety of ways, such as by reducing the total amount of classified material, thereby increasing respect for what is classified, and by strengthening or replacing administrative, civil and criminal sanctions.

Turner said he has no intention of breaking any laws to gather intelligence information and "I am scrupulous in watching that we do not."